



**Metro**

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## **UPDATED NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

**DATE:** May 13, 2021

**TO:** Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

**PROJECT TITLE:** Arts District/6<sup>th</sup> Street Station

**FROM:** Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

**PROJECT LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:** The Arts District/6<sup>th</sup> Street Station Project (Proposed Project) would construct a new Metro D Line (Purple) and/or B Line (Red) station to provide regional and local transit connections to and from the Arts District, Boyle Heights, and surrounding communities. The station would be located south of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Division 20 Rail Yard, and adjacent to existing tracks utilized by Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA), National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) Company. The Proposed Project would be generally bounded to the north by the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, to the south by 7<sup>th</sup> Street, to the east by the Los Angeles River, and to the west by Mesquit Street. **Figure 1** shows the footprint of the Project site and surrounding environmental setting.

**PROJECT INITIATION:** Metro, in coordination with the City of Los Angeles, has initiated a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Proposed Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Metro is the lead agency for the EIR. The Draft EIR will be prepared in accordance with Sections 15120 through 15132 of the CEQA Guidelines. The purpose of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) is to notify interested agencies, organizations, and individuals that Metro plans to prepare a Draft EIR, invite public participation in the EIR scoping process, and announce the public scoping meetings.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES:** The Proposed Project would provide mobility and connectivity to an area currently underserved by local and regional transportation networks. More specifically, objectives include:

- Improving local and regional mobility and accessibility for the surrounding communities to the existing and future Metro transit network, including the long-term operational needs of Metro rail facilities;
- Integrating Metro's transit network with the 6<sup>th</sup> Street viaduct and other planned pedestrian and bicyclist improvements; and
- Providing a transit station that is compatible with surrounding projects.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Proposed Project would construct a heavy rail station to extend the current termini of the Metro B (Red) and/or D (Purple) Lines at Los Angeles Union Station. Although station access has not been finalized at this stage in the development process, it is anticipated that access will be from the north side of the station. Potential station access options could include a connection to Mesquit Street/Santa Fe Avenue through property owned by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). The project will explore linking station access to adjacent projects, including 6<sup>th</sup> Street Viaduct connections to Mesquit Street, the City of Los Angeles 6<sup>th</sup> Street PARC (Park, Arts, River and Connectivity Improvements) Project, and the Metro Los Angeles River Path Project utilizing an inactive tunnel owned by the City of Los Angeles that connects Mesquit Street to the Los Angeles River underneath the existing rail yard. There may also be an opportunity to coordinate secondary access and/or an emergency access road with adjacent developments.

Existing track alignment would need to be revised to accommodate the Proposed Project. This may include new tail tracks, new crossover tracks, and relocating tracks owned by Metro, SCRRA, Amtrak, and/or BNSF Company. The track relocations may also require partial acquisition of a parking area located on the east side of the Lucky Jeans Brand building. Ancillary facilities may include, but are not limited to, a traction power substation, operator facilities, benches, ticketing kiosks, and bicycle racks. The preliminary site plan is shown in **Figure 1**.

**POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:** The purpose of the Draft EIR is to disclose the impacts of the Proposed Project on the environment. The Draft EIR will address all topics listed in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Key CEQA environmental factors to be addressed are shown below. Mitigation measures to reduce potentially significant impacts during construction and operation will be identified in the Draft EIR.

- Aesthetics
- Cultural Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Land Use and Planning
- Transportation
- Air Quality
- Energy
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Noise
- Tribal Cultural Resources

**Virtual Scoping Meetings:** Metro completed two scoping meetings to notify interested agencies, organizations, and individuals that Metro plans to prepare a Draft EIR, invite public participation in the EIR scoping process, and solicit feedback related to the contents of the Draft EIR. The scoping meetings were held on April 14 and 17, 2021. Recordings of the meetings may be viewed at [metro.net/artsdist6thstation](https://metro.net/artsdist6thstation).

**Comment Due Date:** The initial 45-day comment period concluded on May 12, 2021. The comment period is being extended for 15 days. Written comments on the scope of the Draft EIR, including the Project area and description, the impacts to be evaluated, and the methodologies to be used in the evaluation, will be accepted during the comment period and should be received by 11:59 pm PST on **May 27, 2021** at the postal address or e-mail address below. Comments may also be submitted through Metro website at <https://www.metro.net/projects/arts-dist-6th-station/>

**Addresses:** Written or electronic (e-mail) comments may be sent to Brian Lam, Metro, One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop 99-22-7, Los Angeles, CA 90012, via email at [artsdist6thstation@metro.net](mailto:artsdist6thstation@metro.net), or via an online comment form at [metro.net/artsdist6thstation.net](http://metro.net/artsdist6thstation.net).

For more information, please visit [metro.net/artsdist6thstation](http://metro.net/artsdist6thstation)

Figure 1 – Proposed Project and Regional Setting

